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January 24, 2007

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance convened on January 24, 2007, with Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Bruce Desmond, Dennis Sullivan and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Alderman William White, Finance Director Ed Bean, Police Chief Robert Bradley, IT Director James Halloran, Ginger Barrett from the DPW, Arm Framzen, Stephen Winslow and Marc Friedman from SPCD, Library Trustee Mark Howland, Grants Administrator Kate Ashton and Jennifer Lawrence.

Ms. Ashton and Mr. Howland addressed the members to seek approval of an application to secure state grants for the planning and design of a central library. They explained that the grant would be used to explore options for the future, such as building a new facility vs. remodeling an existing facility or selecting a location and design of the facility. There are limited CDBG planning and administration funds that can be used, as well. In essence, the Board of Library Commissioners wants the city to decide if it wants new library and where it wants it. The request before the committee at this time is to allow the city to move forward so that it would be ready, if and when another round of application grants become available, possible in 2-3 years. It is estimated that a new facility would cost \$30 million and that the state would fund 1/3 of that cost.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 9 items:

182501: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to transfer \$14,687 from Contingency Acct. Sick Leave Buyback to the Auditing Dept. to fund sick leave buyback for a retiring employee.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

182502: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to pay \$6,467.95 in prior year invoices in the IT Dept.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

182503: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to pay \$981.45 in prior year invoices in the Dept. of Public Works.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

182504: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to pay \$450 in prior year invoices in the Police Dept.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

182505: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$25,000 from the National Park Service to SPCD, to fund community service

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

182506: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$14,207 from the MA Dept. of Public Health to the Health Dept. for the school nursing program.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

182507: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$2,675.46 by the MA Dept. of Environmental Protection to the Office of Environment and Sustainability for recycling materials.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

182508: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of the Board for a Library application for state grants for the planning and design of a central library.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

182520: Communication from City Officer - City Treasurer/Tax Collector submitting Treasury/Tax Collector Public Official Bon

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Finance,
January 24, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk